



## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources 603-271-3483  
19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301-3570 FAX 603-271-3433  
TDD Access Relay NH 1-800-735-2964  
[www.nh.gov/nhdhr](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr) *preservation@dncr.nh.gov*

### HISTORIC AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM

(HB 395 □ CHAPTER 285, LAWS OF 1999 □ RSA 227-C: 27 – RSA 227-C: 32)

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

#### AGENDA

### One-Hundred-Seventeenth Meeting – Tuesday, January 12, 2021

10:00a.m

#### Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Ben Wilson, Beverly Thomas, Carl Schmidt, Jeffrey Holmes, Jennifer Goodman, John Porter, Nathan Merrill, Robert Johnson II, Shawn Jasper, Steve Bedard, Wilber Heath, Andrew Cushing and Tiffany Provost

- Meeting started at 10:17 a.m. via Zoom.
- Announcements: Carl Schmidt said that thanks to an initiative by Rob Johnson (taken as Policy Director of the NH Farm Bureau Federation), David Babson, who is a former Chairman of the NH House Committee on Environment and Agriculture and who was very helpful in the enactment of RSA 79-D, has expressed interest in joining the Barn Committee in a designated “Active Agriculturalist” position. Babson is currently President of the Carroll County Farm Bureau and raises draft horses, cattle, and puts up hay. Draft minutes from the September 22, 2020 meeting were reviewed. John Porter made a motion to accept and Beverly Thomas seconded. The minutes were approved by all.
- Second Edition of “Preserving Old Barns”: John Porter stated that sales of the book had been a bit slow prior to Christmas. Ben will look into the numbers, but he believes around \$1,000 in books were sold locally and through Pathways. He thinks that half the printing has been sold and does not believe there needs to be another printing. Barn Committee members then agreed to remain with Pathways for now since we are not in the retail business. Numerous ideas were suggested as to how to promote the book. John averages selling 6-8 books at the talks he gives. The NH Preservation Alliance can promote the book in their newsletter, on social media and on their website. Ben Wilson suggested looking into the NH State Parks’ retail sales operations to see if the book could be sold there and on-line, and Andrew Cushing



agreed to look into these suggestions. Shawn Jasper suggested sales of the book via the General Store at N.H. Interstate rest stops. Nathan Merrill wondered if “peer organizations” to the Barn Committee and/or historic preservation organizations in neighboring states might also be willing to sell the book. He also pointed out that John Porter purposely broadened the title and content of the book to help it reach beyond New Hampshire’s borders. John Porter provided 65 copies to the State Library last week to distribute to interested New Hampshire public libraries. Jennifer Goodman said she will take further steps to promote distribution of the book to Heritage Commissions in New Hampshire.

- Promoting Barn Preservation during Covid 19:
  - A. Video Production for Farm & Forest EXPO – Because of Covid 19, the customary Farm & Forest Expo in February will only take place via video. John Porter reported that there will be a one-day online event to kick off the EXPO (February 12 or 13) and then only the presentation of videos and “business cards” after that, which can be accessed by “tuning in”. There will be no cost to put up a 30 minute video. Suggestions for the Barn Committee’s topic were made, including 79-D, a presentation showing how barns were built, and also using one of John Porter’s barn talks. Nate Merrill suggested focusing on a particular New Hampshire town that has a good record of barn preservation and interviewing barn owners there. Beverly Thomas volunteered to work on the video project.
  - B. Beverly Thomas said the Alliance’s Old House and Barn Expo will be virtual this year from March through December 2021. If it is safe by the summer there will be some in-person events. The roll out in March will be heavily promoted. Another event just coming together is centered around the US Post Office’s four new postcard barn stamps. It is hoped to have talks with “names” from “the barn world” about barn preservation. Beverly also reported that the Preservation Alliance’s barn assessment grant program is still operating, and that it is hoped to actually have a Center Harbor Barn Tour in September. Ben Wilson suggested the Houston Barn in Hopkinton for the Barn Committee’s next “Outreach” field trip. The family has donated to the local library a property that contains a large dairy barn.
  - C. 79-D Promotion and Renewals: Beverly Thomas is going to send out renewal reminders to barn owners who are holding 79-D easements. Shawn Jasper agreed to include an article about the 79-D barn preservation mechanism in the mid-March edition of the NH Department of Agriculture’s “Weekly Market Bulletin”.
  - D. Ideas for new and safe approaches: Ben Wilson said the Durham barn visit went well. John Porter gave them some good ideas on drainage problems.



- Status of Report to the Governor: Carl Schmidt knows the report is overdue and that additional information needs to be sent to Tiffany Provost, who has already done much excellent work on the project, so that she can complete the report.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th at 10:00 am. Location to be determined in due course.
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

